



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Argentina

Agricultural Situation

Argentina Reduces Import Tariffs

2002

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Report Highlights:

Argentina has recently reduced import duties of most products, including agricultural and high value consumer ready products. Tariffs are now in line with Mercosur's External Tariff.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Buenos Aires [AR1], AR

The Argentine Government has recently reduced import duties of most products, including agricultural and high value consumer ready products, setting them in line with Mercosur's Common External Tariff (Arancel Externo Comun). This reverses the trend of the past few years where several tariff increases and modifications were implemented to provide greater protection to the local industry against the overvalued local currency. However, the strong devaluation beginning in January 2002, which lowered the value of the peso by over 70 percent, has dramatically increased the price of imported products, greatly reducing the need for protective high tariffs.

On March 2002, the Argentine Government announced the suspension of Resolution 27 of 2001, by which tariffs had been increased on most high value consumer ready products to 35 percent and fruits and vegetables to 25 percent (see AR1031). The new tariffs were set almost entirely in line with the Mercosur External Tariff. In addition, in May 2002, Decree 690/2002 announced the reduction of one percentage point on all tariffs.

Following are the current average import duties by main chapters:

HTS Chapter	Description	Tariff % **
01	Live Animal	0/3.5/5.5
02	Meat & Edible Meat Offals	11.5
03	Fish, Crustaceans & Molluscs	11.5
04	Dairy Products	13.5/15.5/17.5
05	Other Products of Animal Origin	0/9.5
06	Live Trees and Plants, Bulbs	0/11.5
07	Edible Vegetables and Tubers	11.5
08	Edible Fruits and Nuts	11.5
09	Coffee, Tea and Spice	11.5
10	Cereals	0/9.5/11.5
11	Pdcts. of the Milling Industry	11.5/13.5/15.5
12	Oil Seeds, Miscellaneous Grains	0/9.5/11.5
13	Lacs, Gums, Resins	5.5/9.5/11.5
14	Other Vegetable Products	7.5
15	Animal or Vegetable Fats and Oils	7.5/9.5/11.5
16	Preparations of Meat, Fish	17.5

17	Sugars and Sugar Confectionary	17.5/21.5
18	Cocoa, Chocolate	11.5/13.5/21.5
19	Preparations of Cereals, Flour	15.5/17.5/19.5
20	Preparations of Vegetables, Fruit and Nuts	15.5
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	15.5/17.5/19.5
22	Beverages	21.5
23	Food Industry Waste, Animal Feed	7.5/9.5/15.5
24	Tobacco	15.5/21.5
41	Raw Hides	3.5/9.5/11.5
44	Wood	3.5/7.5/15.5

** tariffs vary according to specific products within each chapter